



# WISCONSIN WELLHEAD PROTECTION NEWS

Spring 2003

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## SPRING IS HERE

Hi everyone. As the world outside starts to green up, it's time for another issue of Wisconsin Wellhead Protection News. In this issue you can find out about how you can join in the celebration of our valuable water resources, not only during Drinking Water Week, but throughout the year. You can also learn about the status of Wisconsin's source water assessment effort and computer technology available to assist with contaminant source inventories to help protect your water supply. Enjoy!

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations are in order for a number of communities who are or have been involved in wellhead protection (WHP) planning to protect their water supply wells. Delavan, Gillett, Maiden Rock, Milltown, Mosinee, Muskego, Onalaska, Reedsburg, Rhinelander, Somerset, Trempealeau and Woodville have worked with or are working with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) or Wisconsin Rural Water Association staff on wellhead protection plans, ordinances or both. You are commended for being proactive in protecting your water supply.

Communities which have developed wellhead protection plans for new wells since the last newsletter include Cleveland, Footville, Granton and Tomah. Hats off to these communities as well for recognizing the importance of wellhead protection. Keep up the good work!

The WDNR's wellhead protection website includes a listing of those communities who, according to our records, have adopted a plan for at least one of their wells. The list now includes over 190 communities. Check out the website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/WI-WHP-Communities.pdf](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/WI-WHP-Communities.pdf).

If you would like assistance from the WDNR in getting started, contact me by phone, email, regular mail or fax (see below). As a result of the difficult financial situation faced by the State, the WDNR has had to cut back on the staff hours allocated to voluntary wellhead protection activities. Despite this cutback, the WDNR continues to support wellhead protection as an important program to protect Wisconsin's groundwater. We will continue to provide assistance and information regarding wellhead protection as promptly as possible.

You can also contact Ed Morse, Groundwater Technician for the Wisconsin Rural Water Association, at 920-648-7578 or [edmorse@charter.net](mailto:edmorse@charter.net). Ed works with small communities (less than 10,000) on wellhead protection planning.

If you have ideas regarding topics or questions that could be addressed in future newsletters, contact me by phone (877-268-9355 toll free), by fax (608-267-7650), by email ([david.lindorff@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:david.lindorff@dnr.state.wi.us)) or regular mail (Wisconsin DNR, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921).

Dave Lindorff, Editor

## YEAR OF WATER IN WISCONSIN

You may have heard about or attended the Waters of Wisconsin (WOW) conference this past October which brought together some 700 people representing the broad spectrum of water interests to



talk about Wisconsin's water resources. One of the outcomes of that conference is that Governor Doyle proclaimed 2003 as the Year of Water in Wisconsin. There will be a variety of activities throughout the year to focus on our rich water resources. You can check out the events being planned by visiting the year of water website at [www.wisconsinyearofwater.org](http://www.wisconsinyearofwater.org). Here you can also find an overview of the Year of Water, the Governor's Proclamation, a listing of partners, an event/program registration form, a tool kit and links to other resources.

The WDNR also has a Year of Water website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/division/yow](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/division/yow), including a variety of information and educational resources related to water.

You can keep up to date with the followup activities to the WOW conference by checking out the Wisconsin Academy of Arts, Letters and Science website at [www.wisconsinacademy.org/wow/](http://www.wisconsinacademy.org/wow/). The Academy plans to publish a report on the results of the WOW conference during the week of Earth Day (April 22<sup>nd</sup>).

### **CELEBRATE DRINKING WATER WEEK**

One of the ways you can celebrate the Year of Water is by celebrating Drinking Water Week, May 4-10. The American Water Works Association has a variety of Drinking Water Week resources available at [www.awwa.org/advocacy/dww](http://www.awwa.org/advocacy/dww), including ideas for celebrating the importance of our drinking water supplies. Here's a chance to toot your own horn about how your community protects its water resources.

### **STATEWIDE GROUNDWATER FESTIVAL COMING IN MAY**

One of the culminating events of Drinking Water Week will be the first statewide Wisconsin Groundwater Festival to be held May 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> in Stevens Point. The Festival will offer hands-on activities, presentations, and exhibit booths to help students and families learn the connection between groundwater, surface water, energy and humans. Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> will be a "School Day" for

Wisconsin 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students and their teachers from 9:00 to 3:30.

Everyone is invited to come on Saturday from 10:00 to 4:00. The Festival is free and will be held on the UW – Stevens Point campus; it is being organized by Denise Kilkenny-Tittle, the Statewide Groundwater Guardian Coordinator, and a committee representing a number of agencies and organizations. If you'd like more information about the Festival or would be willing to help, visit the website at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian/wigg/fest.htm](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian/wigg/fest.htm) or contact Denise at 715-346-2722 or [gwguardian@uwsp.edu](mailto:gwguardian@uwsp.edu).

### **GROUNDWATER GUARDIAN GROWTH**

In the fall 2001 newsletter, you were introduced to Denise Kilkenny-Tittle who, at that time, had just been hired by the Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center as Statewide Groundwater Guardian Coordinator. At that time, there were six active Groundwater Guardian (GG) communities – Chippewa Falls, Eau Claire County, Green Bay, Marathon County, Marshfield and Waukesha. In the last 18 months, 2 additional communities (Dunn and Portage Counties) have become Groundwater Guardians and two others (Calumet County and the Milladore Area) are about to join.

In addition, four organizations have become Groundwater Guardian Affiliates. The affiliates serve as a resource for new and existing GG communities. The Groundwater Center of the Center for Watershed Science and Education at UW-Stevens Point (previously known as the Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center) and Golden Sands Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) became affiliates last year. The Groundwater Center works with communities statewide while the Golden Sands RC & D primarily works with communities in nine central Wisconsin counties. The Rock River Coalition and the Wisconsin Ground Water Association (WGWA) are new affiliates this year. The Rock River coalition is focused on the Rock River Basin and WGWA works with communities statewide.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Groundwater Guardian program or the GG Affiliates, contact Denise at 715-346-2722 or [gwguardian@uwsp.edu](mailto:gwguardian@uwsp.edu) or visit the website at [www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian](http://www.uwsp.edu/cnr/gwguardian).

## **EPA YEAR OF CLEAN WATER**

Another reason to celebrate is that the USEPA has designated the 2003 federal fiscal year (October 1, 2002 to September 30, 2003) as the Year of Clean Water to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Clean Water Act. The Year of Clean Water website, [www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater](http://www.epa.gov/water/yearofcleanwater), contains a listing of events around the country, ideas for protecting your watershed, and links to resources on a number of water topics, including source water protection and nonpoint source pollution.

## **THE ASSESSMENTS ARE COMING!**

In past newsletters, I've provided updates on the source water assessment program required by the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. Believe it or not, the end of this effort is in site. Source water assessments for most of the municipal systems which use surface water are nearly complete. They will be distributed in the next few weeks and will be placed on the WDNR's source water assessment website (see end of article) by this summer.

For municipal systems that rely on groundwater, the WDNR will start finalizing assessments in the next few weeks and hopes to deliver them all by the end of 2003. The source water area delineations and potential contaminant source inventories are almost finished. Now the focus is on the automated susceptibility determinations and generation of the completed assessments.

The WDNR is planning to hand-deliver each municipal groundwater assessment because each assessment contains maps showing well locations and source water areas, considered to be sensitive information. WDNR staff will meet with each water utility to explain the assessment and recommendations and to encourage use of the assessment to complete a wellhead protection plan to protect its water supply wells. Each assessment will contain most of the information needed for a wellhead protection plan except for deciding on management or protection steps by the community.

The WDNR plans to complete and distribute all municipal source water assessments by the end of the year. Once the municipal assessments have been completed, work will begin on finalizing the assessments for the 10,000 plus other-than-municipal and noncommunity systems. The WDNR plans to finish these assessments by the end of 2004. A brief summary of each system's assessment will be placed on the Internet.

If you have questions about source water assessments, contact Jeff Helmuth, WDNR Source Water Assessment Program Coordinator, at (608) 266-5234 or [jeffrey.helmuth@dnr.state.wi.us](mailto:jeffrey.helmuth@dnr.state.wi.us). You can also visit the WDNR source water assessment website at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/swp.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/swp.htm).

## **USE OF TECHNOLOGY TO INVENTORY POTENTIAL CONTAMINANT SOURCES**

In 2002, Chippewa Falls was one of five communities in the country awarded a grant from the Groundwater Foundation (GWF) as part of the Applying Community Technology Today (ACTT) project to test computer technologies for use by communities in conducting contaminant source inventories. Chippewa Falls has taken existing contaminant source inventory information and entered it into a geographic information system (GIS). In addition, the City supplemented existing information by using a global positioning system (GPS) unit to locate other potential contaminant sources to update the GIS database. Although it took some time to enter information into the GIS, having potential contaminant source information in a database makes it much easier to manage, update, and share with others. You can read about the Chippewa Falls experience at [http://www.groundwater.org/ProgEvent/CCF\\_WC12\\_02.pdf](http://www.groundwater.org/ProgEvent/CCF_WC12_02.pdf).

This past fall, the GWF got feedback from each of the communities and collected their evaluations, along with a variety of other useful information in a book called *Using Technology to Conduct a Contaminant Source Inventory: A Primer for Small Communities*. This book is available to be downloaded for free from the Groundwater Foundation website at <http://www.groundwater.org/ProgEvent/ACTT.htm>. The website also allows you to look at just parts of the report, including the case studies themselves, an evaluation of the technologies, online resources, and lessons learned. You can also request a paper copy of the book by emailing Rachael Herpel of the GWF at [rachael@groundwater.org](mailto:rachael@groundwater.org). This study was made possible by funding from the Public Entity Risk Institute.



## TEACHER WORKSHOPS A SUCCESS

For the third year in a row, the WDNR has used wellhead protection setaside funds to support groundwater workshops to provide training to teachers in the use of the groundwater sand tank model. The setaside funds were used to pay for the 24 models that were given to schools based on a competitive process and for substitute teachers for the 48 teachers who attended one of the three workshops. One workshop was held at Bethel Horizons near Dodgeville in late January and two were held in Waukesha in early February. You can read the press release for the workshop at [www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/educate.htm](http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/dwg/gw/educate.htm).

This website also includes a map showing the locations of schools which have received groundwater models through training which began ten years ago. In 1994, Chris Mechenich of the Central Wisconsin Groundwater Center and Ron Hennings of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey held the first workshop for teachers. There was one workshop each year from 1994 to 1998 and 2000 and three per year beginning in 2001. Over 100 models have been given away to schools all over the state.

The Wisconsin Wellhead Protection Newsletter is a publication of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater. Its purpose is to provide current information on wellhead protection topics. It is published in the spring and fall and as needed.

Comments, questions, suggestions and articles are welcome and can be sent to: David Lindorff, Editor, Wisconsin Wellhead Protection Newsletter, Department of Natural Resources, P. O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707-7921  
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